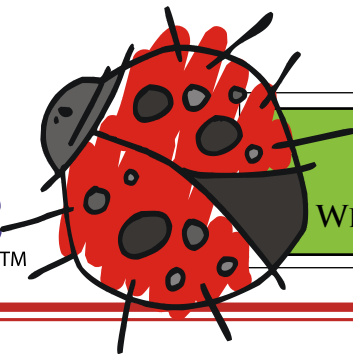




MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY MUST INCREASE ENROLLMENT TO STAY OPEN

JENNIFER HEYNS

What parents of Middleburg Elementary School students consider an asset of the school may just be the bane of its existence. Low enrollment there, and at other public schools in the county, is viewed as a red flag to county officials, said Carla Passarello, Head of Small Schools Committee and the mother of three.

"The main threat is that the administration argues that they aren't cost efficient," said Passarello, "and that simply isn't true."

Passarello explained that officials don't take into account that newer, and therefore lesser paid, teachers are often assigned to the newer, bigger schools, while more experienced, higher paid teachers often opt to relocate to the smaller rural schools.

This makes schools like Middleburg Elementary seem expensive to run; higher salaries going to instruct fewer students.

Passarello said that the parents of Middleburg Elementary students have been staving off various threats to close the school for decades. School board officials prefer bigger, newer schools than the smaller, older ones in rural settings like the one Middleburg residents have come to value so much, according to Passarello.

At the present time, only 72 students are enrolled at Middleburg Elementary, however the school's capacity is 137 students, according to Principal Gary C. Wilkers.

What compounds the threat to small schools like Middleburg is the overcrowding at some of the other Loudoun County Public Schools.

Wilkens said that in an effort to ease the overcrowding the county

adopted a new policy, which took effect on January 27. This policy allows county residents to transfer their elementary student into an under-enrolled school, if they provide their own transportation.

"We have had one student transfer in from Lincoln Elementary and have had several other parents from the Leesburg area come and take a tour of the school," said Wilkers, who is hopeful that he will gain more transfers for the coming school year.

"I would expect, realistically, that we would get six or seven kids next year and that it would grow each year," said Passarello, "My hope for Middleburg is that they experience growth, naturally, which will increase enrollment as well."

Passarello also noted that a development site for new town houses has been approved by the Town and

Continued Page 6

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OTHERS

PAGE 20

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PAGE 28

PHOTO: JAY HUBBARD

SPRING IN BLOOM

Foxcroft School's storied Cherry Tree Alley bloomed beautifully this month to herald Spring and to honor former Director of Riding Margaret Lee who died unexpectedly in a horse cart accident.

Originally planted in the 1930's, the trees had greatly surpassed their life expectancy Miss Margaret was worried and saddened by the prospect of eventually losing

this beautiful landscape feature on the campus. Suddenly realized that by back-planting the original trees with young weeping cherries, the beautiful alley would never die.

After she died so suddenly, a group of her local friends and admirers agreed that back-planting the original Cherry Tree Alley with two rows of weeping cherries would make a lovely, living memorial to Miss Margaret.

With only one letter requesting contributions, the group had the funds they needed within only two weeks, a real testament to the admiration everyone had for Miss Margaret. Contributions came from every corner of the community.

In March of 1995, 60 young weeping cherries were planted. With the help and dedication of many friends of the school, 60 young weeping cherries were planted in Miss Margaret's memory in 1995.

Every April, they bloom in her honor and for the pleasure of Foxcroft students, professors, parents and staff.

Miss Margaret, who lived the Foxcroft ideal she taught, would be delighted to know that this landmark Alley blooms on in her honor.

"She was an astounding teacher and a truly important figure in the community and for the girls she taught," said Lisa Patterson, a 1989 Foxcroft graduate.

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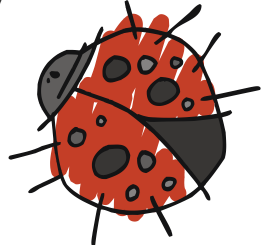
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JOHNSON ADDRESSES WORLD CONGRESS ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Sheila Johnson recently returned from South Africa where she addressed The Fourth World Congress on Family Law and Children's Rights. Johnson spoke on behalf of the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, where she serves on the board of directors and is the organization's international spokesperson.

"As the international spokesperson for the International Center for Missing & Exploited Children, I speak on behalf of those who have been silenced by endless abuse and exploitation and I ask you to join me in saving their lives," Johnson said.

In previous speeches on this topic, Johnson has been both eloquent and persuasive. When she addressed a round table on the same subject in Cape Town last September, she convinced legislators to pass legislation that enacted the stiffest penalties South Africa has enacted against child pornographers and abductors.

The World Congress was formed as a committee of the United Nations. Its annual meeting takes place in a different country each year. Approximately 1,000 family law and children's rights advocates attended this year's conference in Cape Town South Africa.

Johnson was joined on the program

by Mary Robinson, Executive Director, Ethical Globalization Initiative (USA). Robinson was president of Ireland from 1990-97. Known internationally for her work with women and children, she also serves as chancellor of Dublin Uni-



In her remarks, Johnson also addressed the danger posed by the Internet and the increasing availability of child pornography. She described the international partnership she has forged with Microsoft to train law enforcement officials around the world so they may track down child pornographers.

Since 1998, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's Cyber-Tipline has received more than 270,000 reports on child pornography. Each year, there has been a dramatic increase with 39% growth in 2004 in reports of possession, creation and distribution of child pornography.

"This is an increasingly important international issue," Johnson emphasized.

She also described the positive impact the Internet is having in tracking down abducted children. The International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children's Photo Distribution Network disseminates thousands of images of missing children through media outlets and multinational organizations daily.

For more information on the International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children, visit the web at www.icmec.org.

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NEWS OF NOTE

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL APRIL MEETING

JENNIFER HEYNS

Starting off Public Comments former Middleburg resident Pam Stokes criticized the Middleburg Town Council in general, and Mayor Tim Dimos in particular, in a prepared statement read into the official record of the April 14 Town Council Meeting.

Her statement criticized the Mayor for what she termed a "non-efficient relationship" with the Council for the past two years, citing in particular a perceived inability to make "any firm decisions" regarding the development of the Salamander Inn and the acceptance or rejection of offers made by the Inn's owner, Sheila Johnson.

Stokes also admonished the Mayor and Town Council members with being less than forthcoming on the issue during the past month, even claiming that the Mayor and two Council members had met secretly with Salamander representatives, a meeting which, she charged, should have been dis-

closed to the public.

Peter Wood of Marshall Street voiced both aesthetic and procedural concerns related to a new town house development near his property. Wood said that the Historic District Review Committee had notified some of his neighbors, but not him, about a meeting concerning the development.

Taking note of Wood's appeal for the use of appropriate natural materials for the exterior facings of the building, Marchant Schneider, Town Planner, noted that, although notification at this stage is a courtesy and not required by law, that it would be wise to widen the area of notice to include more of the surrounding property.

In other Council business, Barbara Riddleburger, Manager of Lou Lou, introduced her shop to Council. Opened in August, 2004, as a business designed to serve both mothers and their daughters, Riddleburger noted that it is "still evolving through local demand."

Town Administrator Mike Casey reported that the deadline for bids on the new Liberty Street

Visitor Center parking lot project would be extended, but that a contract would still be awarded on May 12 as originally planned.

He also introduced the new state of the art system implemented to record, distribute and post the minutes of the town meetings.

Police Chief Steven Webber reported that his department is about four to six weeks away from taking delivery on two new "sign trailers." They will be used to post messages along the roadside related to traffic conditions, special events, traffic and parking, and other things.

Marchant Schneider informed the Council that the Courtyard of Middleburg building project on North Pendleton Street would begin in the next 30 days; that the Asbury Church renovation on North Jay Street is being delayed because of a possible change in ownership; and that a meeting would be held on April 20 regarding Steeple Chase Run.

Council also agreed to authorize a loan from the General Fund to the Utility Fund.

According to Mike Casey the loan is needed as a "cash-flow" bridge.

Council Member Mark Snyder questioned the loan, noting that the "cost of money", namely, the interest on the bridge loan, would have to be borne by rate payers.

Casey replied that the loan would just be a short-term fix and would be paid back by the end of the summer. In the end Snyder joined other Council Members in voting for the loan but said he would like to see the "systemic problem" could be fixed long-term.

The Mayor and Council agreed not to appoint anyone to the town's Well Head Advisory Committee until such time as guidelines for the committee could be defined. The Virginia Department of Health recommended its establishment to help protect the town's water supply by designing a formal "Well Head Protection Program." Lisa Patterson and Steve Plesko have already expressed interest in the positions.

A public hearing was set for

May 12 at 7:30 p.m. to allow public comment and discussion on the issues of the Fiscal Year 2006 Budget. Copies of the proposed budget will be made available to the public before the meeting.

The same May 12 meeting will discuss the proposed Middleburg Bank Federal Street Parking Lot Facility.

Councilwomen Betsy Davis expressed her dismay at the parking situation near the Pendleton Street pedestrian bridge linking The Hill School property to the town. Noting that the bridge area had been turned into an ad hoc parking lot and litter bin, she cited the need to enforce parking regulations rigorously to make the site more pleasing to the eye and more inviting to pedestrians.

Casey agreed to speak with Streetscape about when they will be ready to implement their landscaping plan for the site.

Following the Mayor's comments, Council went into closed session for further discussion of the Salamander Inn.

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NEWS OF NOTE

TOTALLI TUTTI

JENNIFER HEYNS

We know she can cook, sing and make people laugh, but what we don't know is exactly what the exuberant, extremely talented Tutti Perricone will do with a stage all to herself when the spotlight shines.

Perricone, who is best known as the proprietor of the Back Street Café in Middleburg, is shedding only sparks of light on her upcoming Totalli Tutti show.

"It's a cabaret-style show with lots of surprises," said Perricone.

Totalli Tutti will be playing at the Middleburg Community Center at 8 p.m. May 20 and 21. Perricone said that she expects the show to

last approximately one and a half hours with no intermission.

Perricone, who is a lifelong Middleburg resident and graduate of Loudoun County High School, said that for years her customers and friends have been asking her when she would do a one-woman show.

"I really love this business," Perricone said about her restaurant, "but I like to be able to step back and do other things, too."

The requests, coupled with her fondness of fundraising for worthy organizations gave Perricone the idea to put on this suspenseful show to benefit the Creative Youth Theater Foundation.

"I feel really strongly about this foundation," said Perricone,

"it is helping a lot of kids who, otherwise, wouldn't have a chance to be involved in theatre. Even if people can't come out to see the show, I encourage them to donate to the foundation."

The Creative Youth Theater Foundation, also located in Middleburg, was founded by Hills School teacher and long-time friend of Perricone, Tom Sweitzer. Since theatre is his forte, Sweitzer has been instrumental in helping Perricone organize her production.

Also helping to bring the show to center stage is Musical Director Joseph Kanon, whose resume includes arranging and orchestrating music for Seals & Crofts and Pia Zadora as well as serving as vocal

coach on the original movie set of Annie, starring Carol Burnett.

"Joe is an unbelievable piano player and has been a good friend of mine for many years," said Perricone.

Although Perricone is hoping to entice people to come see the show by building suspense as to what, exactly, the show will include, she did let a few of the details slip.

"It's definitely a family show. It's going to be fun, uplifting, entertaining with a lot of variety and people will see a musical side of me that they've never seen before, it's very exciting," said Perricone.

She said that she will be performing songs written by Kanon and Sweitzer as well as songs that the audience will recognize.

Knowing her bubbly, witty personality, one may be confident that humor will play a big role in the show.

"Well, I will be talking to the audience between songs and you

just never know what will come out of my mouth," said Perricone, "it won't be a comedy routine, though."

Perricone said that she has been singing all her life and thoroughly enjoys it, but that it wasn't until Sweitzer moved to Middleburg 10 years ago that Perricone started taking voice lessons.

In addition to running her now nearly 20-year old café, Perricone enjoys taking part in many of Sweitzer's productions and is thrilled to now have him aiding her own show to benefit his foundation.

Perricone also mentioned how grateful she is to her many sponsors who are making it possible for her be able to afford to donate every penny the ticket sales to the Creative Youth Theater Foundation. Tickets are on sale at the Hills School Box Office and are \$25 apiece. To purchase tickets by phone, call 540-687-3761.

ELEMENTARY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

considers it a positive prospect for bringing in new Middleburg Elementary students.

"Right now we're in a holding pattern," said Passarello, "just monitoring the transfers and as the school year winds down and parents start to think about the next school year, I will get to many of the overcrowded schools to get the word out about the new policy."

Although her youngest child, Meghan, will be graduating from Middleburg Elementary this summer, Passarello said that she will continue to be vigilant of the county's intentions toward the school and others like it.

"It's not a matter of privilege," said Passarello, "the school has a high number of minority and learning disabled children. If they close Middleburg Elementary all of those children would be disenfranchised because they don't have the wherewithal to go to a private school. These are kids that already have problems."

Although Wilkers said that no one at the county has mentioned closing the school, he agrees that ensuring it's future within the Middleburg community is key.

"I think it's a subject that needs to be thought through very carefully, considering the impact it will have on the children and their community," said Wilkers, who noted that Middleburg Elementary is the oldest school in Loudoun County to still occupy its original

building.

Built in 1911, the school has a lot of history, charm and connection with the residents in Middleburg.

"For many of the children, not only did their parents go here, but their grandparents as well," said Wilkers, "so a lot of the families have a big investment in the school. For our new families, it's a comfort to them that their child won't be just a number; this is a very special place."

Lisa Patterson, owner of Mel-low Out, supports the school as well, although her daughter, Remy, is still four years away from starting Kindergarten there.

"For me, it's incredibly important for the school to stay open," said Patterson, "I think it's very important for the community to have a public school in town, without it I think we'll lose a demographic. And I don't think elementary kids belong on a school bus for an hour a day; I think it's unreasonable to ask it of."

Parents who are interested in transferring their children into Middleburg Elementary will need to submit an application with the county between May 1 and the 10th day of the 2005-2006 school year. Forms and information can be obtained at www.loudoun.k12.va.us. Wilkers also welcomes inquiries about the new program; he can be reached at 703-771-6680.

OUT OF AFRICA

KATIE LEACH-KEMON

Despite their exhaustion after a long day of French and Arabic lessons, all members of the student troupe have shown up for rehearsal on this Tuesday afternoon. The scene unfolding before our eyes diverts our minds from the clothing sticking to our bodies and the never-ending thirst that this 109°F weather provokes.

A young Nigerian woman glares at her wide-eyed fiancé.

"I hear you've been playing around. We can't get married until we've both tested negative for HIV," says the young woman.

"What?" The young man pauses, stunned. His surprise quickly turns to anger: "I'm not taking the test," he says. "I'm not sick."

"Then we are not getting married," says his fiancée.

The man relents, grudgingly: "But they're not going to find anything, you'll see," he says.

The drama continues. The couple goes to the hospital to test for HIV. The woman is HIV-negative, but her husband-to-be tests positive. The young woman says to him:

"Thank God I insisted that we

get tested before marriage. If I had trusted you, AIDS would have ruined my life and our child's life."

I find it hard to believe that the strong, confident young actress in the scene is the same girl who hid her face in shame when I asked her a question during an HIV/AIDS lesson that I taught in her class only a week earlier. At this

moment she is transformed, showing no hesitation as she firmly asserts her right to protect herself against disease.

Traditionally, Nigerian women do not have ownership over their bodies. Once married, the woman be-

comes her husband's property. According to Nigerian tradition, which is the norm in rural settings, the wife's role confines her to the house, where she pounds the millet, cooks the meals, washes the clothes, raises the children, and serves her husband's sexual needs. Her husband, however, is free to roam, to seek out additional wives or girlfriends as he pleases.

Despite their subordinate role, women are not powerless to defend their bodies against AIDS. By understanding how HIV is transmitted, Nigerian women can take

steps to prevent infection. Like the female character in the scene, they can demand HIV testing prior to marriage. In the likelihood that her husband engages in extra-marital relations, a wife can pressure him to wear condoms.

Using theater containing HIV/AIDS-related messages is useful for educating men as well as women. These types of performances reach a target audience of young Nigerian men, the majority of whom travel periodically to countries like Nigeria, the Ivory Coast, and Ghana in search of work. In these coastal countries, the HIV infection rate is significantly higher than that of Niger, a landlocked nation. Separated from their wives for months, even years at a time, they may contract HIV in these

countries and then bring it back to their wives.

I hardly imagined a theatrical performance of this kind could be possible in Kiota, the town where I live. At first, I was hesitant to initiate a campaign on such a socially taboo subject like HIV/AIDS. Kiota is considered a "holy" town, as it is home to a leading Muslim caliph. While conversing with an influential woman in the caliph's family, she uttered the last words I expected to hear: "Can you please teach our community about AIDS?" Thanks to this woman's openness and concern for the well-being of her community, I feel that I am truly helping people, especially the young women of my town.

Moreover, the timing of this

HIV/AIDS campaign is critical because Kiota's young women will soon be tested. On April 21st, the Muslim holiday of Maloud will attract thousands of people to the town. People from the town tell me that businessmen from all over West Africa will arrive in their 4x4's, seducing Kiota's poor young women with money and beautiful fabrics in exchange for sex. I can sleep soundly knowing that I have armed these young women with the knowledge to protect themselves. When these aggressive men flash wads of bills in front of these young students, perhaps the girls' minds will flash back to the scene they witnessed, and they will have the courage to refuse.

the wait is over...the kitchen will close...
the apron comes off...the music will flow...

Totalli Tutti



Photo by Jim Poston

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Continued Page 24

OUR EARTH

THE KILLDEER

THE PLANT LADY

KAREN REXRODE

For well over a month I have heard the call of the killdeer as they arrive once again to plot out a territory with-in the nursery. These vocal birds are technically shore birds, although they are found far inland, breeding from Alaska to Newfoundland and south. Their call is a high pitched killdee(r), the reason for their common name. Scientifically known as Charadrius vociferus which means "talkative plover", there are 62 species of plovers, split by lowland and upland. The killdeer is closely related to the American woodcock and the numerous sandpipers, wonderful birds to watch as they poke and prod for food with their thin bills and long legs.

The killdeer is particularly entertaining as it feigns a broken wing whenever an intruder comes too near the nest. As soon as they have convinced you to follow them and distance yourself from their spartan ground nest, they fly away or return to their clutch of eggs. But wait, the act may not be over as they have been known to fake sitting on a shallow indent on the ground (if you persist), again

distracting the observer from the true nest which is really nothing more than a slight depression on rocky ground. Given the lack of work spent on nest building and that the eggs lay directly on the ground, I have always wondered how killdeer could possibly manage to raise any young. As it turns out there are several reasons why they succeed, only one of which includes their dramatic flailing about as one wing is splayed and piteous cries draw your full attention.

The job of raising young is shared by both parents and a couple may raise two clutches a year. Each clutch can contain from 3 to 6 eggs, there are usually 4. The eggs are marvelously camouflaged, very hard to find which is aided by the fact that little was done to actually build a nest. The idea is to blend in with the surroundings, the eggs are slightly speckled, like the surrounding rock. The embryo within the eggs will not begin to develop until they feel the warmth of the parent killdeer, hence the first egg may sit longer than the last egg, but all of the eggs will begin to develop at the same time, subsequently hatching at the same time which takes 24 to 28 days. The eggs are

sizable which is typical for precocial birds. There are two types of baby birds, one precocial, and the other more common type altricial. Precocial translates to "ripened beforehand" which means the young hatch with their eyes open and are able to leave the nest immediately. Young (newly hatched) killdeer are equivalent to a two week old altricial baby bird. The eggs are larger as there is more nourishment built into the killdeer egg, sustaining them for a longer time. The word altricial comes from Greek and means "wet nurse" as altricial baby birds are born with their eyes closed, blind and naked, they are helpless and need their parents to feed them. Eggs in this case are usually smaller, examples of altricial baby birds are robins, blue jays, and cardinals. The newly hatched killdeer are capable of standing and are ready to leave the nest immediately. Albeit they will wobble a bit on long new legs, they are marvels in design as they leave until they feel the warmth of the parent killdeer, hence the first egg may sit longer than the last egg, but all of the eggs will begin to develop at the same time, subsequently hatching at the same time which takes 24 to 28 days. The eggs are



them scrape out a small nest in a 1 gallon potted plant.

We are at the verge of the killdeer's winter distribution which means they can be found here year-round. Many of the winter resident killdeer will move further north as summer populations return. I usually hear the call of our returning males in early February as they restake their territory. Couples will

stay into November.

Not only are these birds entertaining they are beneficial as their primary diet consists of weevils, grasshoppers, beetles, ticks, mosquitoes, flies, army worms, and other noxious insects. These sentinels of the bird world are good to have around and clearly one needn't worry about their ability to survive.



TREE TEA PARTIES

BONNIE DEAHL

Compost tea, you say? As a Baby Boomer from the 60's and 70's, I clearly remember being fascinated by organic gardening wanting a victory garden of my own. The idea of brewing compost teas was pretty cool back then, but I did not have the means to make my own. Today as an arborist and horticulturist, I am delighted to share that organic methods are entering the limelight in the world of tree and shrub care. And that includes compost teas...for the trees.

We now know that soils consist of an important organic layer located in the top few inches of the soil. Most tree roots can be found in the top 6-10 inches of the soil and will extend two or three times beyond the drip line (or tree canopy) than ever thought. Our urban soils are void of this organic layer especially in areas where top soils are removed in order to have a firm foundation on which to build a house. Landscape plants that include trees, shrubs, and groundcovers need this organic layer to be present in order to sustain healthy root systems. We can import compost and top soil to the landscape but still have to build a layer that will support an incredible biological network of microbes, fungi, protozoa and earthworms. Without this living soil web, our plants simply cannot flourish. So why not just add compost to the soil?

Not just any old compost will do. Compost that favors a fungal environment is preferred by trees; a bacterial compost will be preferred more by growing turf grasses. The brewing process extracts beneficial fungi & bacteria, nutrients, and microbes that can be used more readily.

Turf grass benefits from this organic layer by manufacturing an environment in the roots that is bacterial in nature. In contrast, trees growing in healthy forest soils produce a root environment that is fungal in nature. There is a balance that must be present for either turf or tree ecosystems to thrive. By introducing a living brew either fungal or bacterial in nature and applying it in soils void of these components, we begin to create the soil environment that can sustain itself.

These living brews can also be prescriptive by the addition of beneficial nematodes to target certain problems. Benefits of using compost teas in your landscape include disease suppression, health-

ier soils that sustain your plants' growth, thereby reducing the need for regular pesticides. Landscapes that have a history of no pesticide use and organic methods have higher soil fertility and healthier plant growth.

Organic programs are labor intensive at first, but as soil fertility is brought to a healthy balance of fungi to bacteria present in soil, the frequency of applications is often reduced. A biological soil test is used to provide a baseline measurement of the soils' fertility. This test is different from standard soil tests in that they measure living organisms such as bacteria, fungi, protozoa, nematodes, earthworms and other similar organisms. The perishable brews must be applied 24-48 hours from when they are brewed.

Local trees that have benefited from local tree tea parties hosted by The Care of Trees, include a large 3 trunk hemlock located near the corner of Madison and Federal streets in Middleburg at the former location of the Black Coffee Bistro. This hemlock, once plagued by insect problems, construction impacts and drought, was pale green about 2 years ago. After two years of tea applications, the tree has a lush green color. Hemlocks require the highest fungal to bacterial ratio of any tree species. The trees at the Leesburg Courthouse are also recipients of this tea program. The next time you drive through Middleburg or Leesburg, have a look at these lovely native trees.

The latest active research on this subject has been done by Dr. Elaine Ingram, founder of Soilfoodweb, Inc. in Corvallis, Oregon. More information on the use of compost teas and soil biology can be found on her website: www.soilfoodweb.com

When combined with cultural practices such as proper tree selection, planting, correct mulch practices (remember, no "mulch volcanos"), compost teas can give your trees the party they deserve. We must be responsible stewards of the land and that includes the care of our urban landscapes. Further information on accepted gardening practices can be found at your local Cooperative Extension office.

Bonnie Deahl is a Certified Arborist for The Care of Trees. For more information on Soil-Care contact The Care of Trees: 703.661.1700 or 540.687.6800. Website: www.thecareoftrees.com

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FROM THE EDITOR’S DESK

ONE YEAR LATER

As we enter our second year of publication at the Eccentric, we want to thank our readers, our advertisers, our patient and thoughtful friends, families and colleagues for their trust, kindness, understanding and support.

When we decided to begin publication one year ago, it was to satisfy a need we felt personally for more balanced information about what was happening to this beautiful, bucolic part of the world. As we got underway, we were gratified and sometimes stunned at the rapid and enthusiastic response.

We work very hard to represent the issues, the culture, the individuals and the economic base of this beautiful but rapidly growing part of the world. You may not always agree with our point of view, and we thank you for pointing those instances out to us.

We often strike a chord of consensus, and we thank you for letting us know you agree. Or, that you didn’t fully understand something we covered that really matters to you.

We commit to you that we shall continue to cover this area in a fair, balanced and reflective manner.

MIDDLEBURG ECCENTRIC WELCOMES AND ENCOURAGES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. LETTERS MUST BE SIGNED AND INCLUDE WRITER’S NAME, ADDRESS AND DAYTIME PHONE NUMBER. PLEASE SUBMIT LETTER VIA EMAIL: EDITOR@MBECC.COM OR P.O. BOX 1768, MIDDLEBURG VA 20118

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The alternative, as usual in such cases, was to do nothing and be silent.

Every day, many of us are presented with opportunities to speak out, to act in defense of our principles, or to do nothing. The law gives all of us the right to speak out, but the law also demands that we obey the rules in doing so. One morning in February 2004, the question of those rules, rights and obligations came home in force to me and my husband. So, after waiting several months for an apology that didn’t come, it seemed necessary for us to act. Doing nothing no longer seemed like a reasonable option.

And so began our encounter with the legal system that has just recently been concluded. A judge once told me, years ago, as I sat in his courthouse, “This is a place for the law, not for fairness.” He certainly knew what he was talking about.

The law operates in a world of its own. Many people had assumptions that they voiced to us about what should happen or what would happen. However, someone who sets out to harm you may or may not leave a trail that can be used against them in court. The process may or may not consider all the facts that are obvious to most of us. The judge or jury may or may not see the issues the way we do. In the end, the result that we achieved with the help of our attorneys can best be characterized as vindication but not retribution.

The saving grace of all of this, however, has been the support and encouragement of friends and neighbors. The causative event was ugly enough that no one wanted to make it bigger than it was, so the friends who knew of this before the trial were not shouting about it from the rooftops. Our local community never made the bad situation worse, and several sympathetic angels even stayed all day at the courthouse with us. Their presence was appreciated as the other side gathered a noisy three-ring circus of political figures and hangers-on who trooped in and out.

That brings me to an important point. To the other side, the case was about politics. To us, it was about decency and observing a code of civilized behavior within the community. In our small town of Middleburg, this special corner of the world, life is a constant lesson in that code to all of us, because our neighbors are known to us and we see them every day. Any of us would make a serious mistake if we let politics keep us from being good neighbors.

Valerie Kelly
Middleburg Virginia

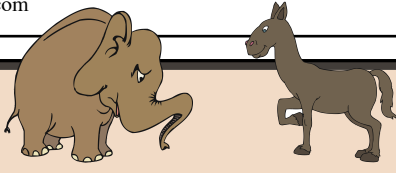
RANTS & RAVES

Each month in this space Mark Tate (Red) and Dan Morrow (Blue) provide absolutely definitive, perfectly reasoned and indisputably global solutions to all the world’s great problems . . . in 150 words or less. Send your problems to Mark and Dan at: redvsblue@mbecc.com

RED VS BLUE

★★★★★★★★★
DAN MORROW

★★★★★★★★★
MARK TATE



THE BUSH APPOINTEES: IS THIS THE BEST WE CAN DO?

On deck for the new “advise and consent” season we have:

1) a Bush nominee for the UN Ambassadorship who hates the United Nations (and, it would seem, threatens to fire intelligence analysts who don’t display the appropriate degree of toadyism.);

2) a Bush nominee to ramrod the nation’s fatally-flawed intelligence operations who turned a blind eye to corrupt generals, death squads, and illegal aid to cross-border insurgents in Latin America; and

3) a spate of truly unqualified Federal judges, including one who thinks slavery was “God’s gift to the white man” and one for whom zoning ordinances are an unconstitutional infringement of property rights. (Is there a Sheetz in mid-town Middleburg’s future?)

How can a good, compassionate, conservative Republican vote to approve such men for high office. Surely, the President knows better, in every sense of the word.

I always find it amusing when liberals are surprised that President Bush is appointing nominees that reflect his policies. Advice and Consent –the US Senate’s constitutional duty to give advice and if they agree with the Presidents suggestion their consent for appointments made by the President. Unfortunately the Democratic leadership in the US Senate has been blocking this Constitutional Duty of the Senate. The Presidents nominee for UN Ambassador’s biggest crime is that the French think he is to Pro-American...I am ok with that. The President’s nominee for the intelligence post is a very qualified man that has had trumped up charges from the distant past. The Democrats should be ashamed. And if theses Judge Nominees are so bad why is the Democratic leadership not letting the Senate do its duty. Are they afraid they will get consent because they are in fact qualified and great choices? Maybe not the choice of John Kerry and the Democratic Party but there is a reason for that they lost the election.

MORE TAX CUTS FOR THE RICH?

With Bush’s let’s-fake-a-crisis Social Security barnstorming adventure falling flat on its face; with Medicare REALLY in deep trouble; with deficits (and gas prices) rising; and consumer confidence falling, why is Bush supporting the permanent abolition of a reasonable tax that affects only a tiny percentage of the richest people of the face of the earth?

In my youth I favored confiscatory inheritance taxes (from, it seemed at the time, high Republican, “Let’s level the playing field,” and a “Let talent compete against talent” point of view.) Now that I actually have something of an “estate” to bequeath, my opinions have changed . . . but I still don’t find it too burdensome on my posterity to be taxed on amounts over \$3 million or so.

Why not? It’s not a “death” tax . . . but a reasonable and necessary tax on the already privileged few.

“Fake Social Security Crisis”...either you have not been paying attention or you have been drinking some of Ted Kennedy’s Purple Kool-Aid.

The Death Tax is one of the worst taxes ever created. This tax destroys small businesses, family farms, and the hard earned savings of Middle America. The top 1% in America do not pay death taxes, they have high priced lawyers to prevent that. Just ask Bill Gates.

The very thought that some politicians think it is a good idea to tax a man or woman one last time after they are passed is horrifying. Politicians who think this is a good idea just do not understand to whom that tax money belongs.

I applaud the permanent elimination of the death tax. We have seen thousands of jobs eliminated because of the destructive effect of the tax on small businesses and family farms sold off for development because of the same effect.

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PASTIMES

WHAT TO DO WITH SANDY’S CHICKENS

FROM BEHIND THE STOVE

BRIAN LICHOROWIC

Peering in through the glass butcher’s case in Sandy Lerner’s Home Farm Store downtown, there are several things from which to choose. I drool over the prime cuts of meat, whole sides of pork ribs and wonderful Cornish Cross chickens for our tables.

Over the crowded counter I was handed a fine-looking whole chicken wrapped in paper with its contents scrawled in black pencil. The woman next in line asked me, “Do you cook it any differently?” “I don’t think so,” I honestly replied, but I understood from whence she was coming. It seems to me there appears to be trepidation for people to prepare and cook organic beef, meet and poultry.

Is it gamey tasting? Does it cook faster? Will it be dry?

The word on poultry is out. The horrors of the poultry industry have been well documented and experienced. I have driven through small towns where the official town flower is the loose chicken feather. Seriously, a few years ago I passed through a large town that was home to a processing plant in VA that obviously had its doors blown open as the state highway and the neighboring front yards were covered in white feathers. Purdueville ?

General consensus is that we’ve have been subjected to chicken in probably its lowest form and mass-produced. The food that we put into our bodies is best if it’s natural and free of hormones and chemicals. I can use this analogy: If chicken were wine, then the stuff we’ve been eating from our supermarkets for most of our lives is the equivalent of “wine in a box.”

I don’t know if they’re all locally raise at Ayrshire but Sandy’s Cornish Cross chickens are born, raised and taken from the Earth kindly. In addition to being free of hormones and antibiotics, these chickens are considered Certified Humane, a new certification that supports livestock living in its natural environment until the time of slaughter. But I’m guessing a happy chicken is a tasty chicken. My rule of thumb is the fresher the food, any food - fish, chicken, beef or rutabagas - the better the food. So having the Ayrshire Farm operation right up the road from Middleburg guarantees us a fresh and, from my experience, superior product.

My thinking was this. All poultry has different tastes hence, should not different recipes be

suited to celebrate the distinctive flavor of the glorious fowl that we are now privileged enough to have available literally at our corner butchery?

So here’s what I did with Sandy chickens.

The first is a family favorite. It’s made with four main ingredients and is slow cooked. The second is a very old Vincent Price recipe and was written about so well in the cookbook that I’ve used it for 25+ years. And for the third, I freely experimented on a spicy dish that could scorch Teflon that I prepared for a sick friend. We all get our kicks somewhere.

Chicken Braised in Virginia Riesling with Shallots & Crimini Mushrooms over Noodles

- 1 whole Cornish Cross Chicken, Quartered
- 1/4 lb (1 stick) sweet cream butter
- 3/4 pound crimini mushrooms, sliced 1/2” (fairly thick)
- 1 large Shallot, minced
- 1/3 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup of Virginia Riesling (I found a regifted ‘02 Pearmund Cellars in my pantry fridge that turned out to be outstanding for drinking as well as for cooking. Their loss!)
- 1 tbs flour
- A good guzzle of cognac
- 1 package of wide egg noodles
- Sea salt and fresh pepper to taste

1. Melt 4 tablespoons of butter in a large skillet over medium high heat. Add the chicken, season with salt and pepper and cook over moderate heat until slightly browned, about 4 minutes per side. Add the shallot and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add the Cognac. Light it and show off. When the flames subside, add the Riesling, cover and simmer over low heat until the chicken breasts are just cooked, about 25 minutes. Transfer the breasts to a large plate and cover with foil. Cover and simmer the legs until cooked through, about 10 minutes longer. Transfer to the plate.

2. Prepare the egg noodles al dente and set aside.

3. In a medium skillet, melt 2 tablespoons of butter. Add the mushrooms, season with salt and pepper and cook over low heat until the liquid evaporates, about 7 minutes. Increase the heat to moderate and cook, stirring, until

browned, about 3 minutes.

4. In a bowl, blend the flour and the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter. Stir the room-temperature cream into the chicken skillet and bring to a simmer. Gradually whisk the flour paste (rue) into the cooking liquid and simmer, whisking, until no floury taste remains, 3 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

5. Return the chicken to its skillet, add the mushrooms and briefly reheat. Top mixture over egg noodles.

Friday Chicken (Classic Stuffed Skin Picnic Chicken)

You can keep James Beard and Rachel Ray. When I look for a

classic, I go for my Vincent Price Golden Recipe Treasury Book. It just reads wonderfully. Example; “This recipe got its name because it was always made on Friday.” That’s just unbridled literature providing us with a gentle reminder as to the quality of Mr. Prices’ movies. But he could



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cook. We called it “Refrigerator Chicken” because we always had it cold. You can make a few of these in advance. A seasoned stuffing is placed between the skin and the meat instead of the cavity giving you a heightened flavored bird, crisp brown skin and moist tender meat. It looks great carved on a plate and is superb served cold on a picnic.

- 1 whole Cornish Cross Chicken
- 1/2 cup sweet cream butter, softened
- 5 pieces of bread, white or wheat
- 1/2 cup of water
- 4 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 1 sprig (1 tsp) fresh thyme
- 2 leaves of fresh sage
- Sea salt and fresh pepper to taste

1. Chicken Prep: Loosen the skin of the chicken by inserting and gently moving your hand around under the skin of the entire chicken. This will carefully tear any connective tissue.

2. In a large but shallow bowl place the slices of bread and add the water, allow the bread to absorb some of the water and then squeeze out the excess moisture. Add the parsley, eggs, thyme, sage, onion and salt & pepper. Mix it together well.

3. Stuff the dressing between the skin and the meat of the chicken forcing it into the leg pockets and anywhere else you can fit it. In a baking pan place the chicken - breast up.

Massage the soft butter onto the skin of the chicken.

4. There are 2 ways to finish this. Mr. Price likes a 400-degree oven for 45 minutes and finish at 350 degrees for 1 hour basting every 20 minutes. I have found that by covering it with a piece of tin foil in a 350 degree oven for about 1 1/2 hours gives me the same results without having to baste it. You can turn the chicken over for 15 minutes to brown the back if you’d like.

Take this to a Wolf Trap concert on the grass. You’ll be happy.

Pot Roasted SweetHeat Chicken

My friend, Mike was recently caught in an avalanche while ice climbing in Durango, Colorado. (I’m happy and relieved to report

he is healing quickly). Upon his return from the hospital, he was in complete “Jell-O” mode and still tick off at gravity. He likes heat and after a couple of weeks, knowing he missed the hot stuff. I thought I scorch him a little see if the old motor still runs.

This is a Jamie Oliver dish that can be spiced up quickly by adding more chilies. Apples or peaches can also be used.

- 1 whole Cornish Cross Chicken, halved or quartered
- 4 thumb-sized pieces of fresh ginger, grated with skin on
- 4 med. red onions, peeled and quartered
- 2 red bell peppers, de-seeded & quartered
- 2 yellow bell peppers, de-seeded & quartered
- 1/2 cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 3 dried chipolte chilies (3 med size peppers is a good hot, add more for increased heat)
- 1 ripe whole pineapple, peeled, quartered and chopped thick
- 1 tbs crushed fennel seeds
- 1/3 cup of Virginia honey
- 6 tbs balsamic vinegar
- A good guzzle of olive oil
- Sea salt and fresh pepper

1. Preheat to 375 degrees. In a large baking dish add the peppers, ginger, onions, chilies, fennel seeds and 80% of the pineapple. Add the olive oil and mix well.

Place the chicken on top. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Bake for minutes.

2. Drain some of the oil off. (One thing I did notice about cooking with Cornish Cross chicken is that the oil from the bird is significantly reduced).

3. Remove the chicken. Put a few scoops of the vegetable and a few pieces of Pineapple into a food processor add the honey and Balsamic Vinegar and puree. You can get creative here. You could add water to loosen if you like or Pass it through a coarse sieve to make it smoother. I added some minced chilies,

4. Place a bed of rice on the plate, scoop some the vegetables and fruit from the pan on to the rice, Place the chicken on the rice, and pour the sauce over everything.

Life is good.

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element H₂O

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Gina&Lynn Hilleary

Look, I'm not judging your lifestyle, it's just that we don't have enough room.

PASTIMES

FRUITS OF HARD LABOR

DEBI LICHOROWIC

Imagine my luck...I was asked to cover the 6th Annual Washington, D.C. International Wine & Food Festival on March 12 & 13. (Work, work, work)

The new DC convention center is gorgeous and well worth the wait. It's a colossal 2.3 million square foot facility with staff that worked like well-oiled machines. I, along with my epicurean husband, Middleburg Eccentric's Behind the Stove writer, got in line to grab our attendee badges, were handed two substantial wine glasses emblazoned with the bold, blue Viking logo, the high-end stove maker and show's largest sponsor. We hit the show floor running and plowed through like seasoned troopers.

We cased the perimeter and sampled some light food samples, watched the celebrity chef demonstrations and then worked our way into the heart of the matter where the serious games began – the ultimate in global wine tasting. Two hundred and forty wineries were on display.

International wines were generously poured from Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Portugal & Greece, Chile, Argentina, Australia, South Africa and domestic wines from California and Virginia. For a good resource for more information on any of these countries/regions, you may visit www.wineloverspage.com.

Like a gastronomy show I once attended in Paris, these wineries were extremely proud and excited to showcase their wares. They eagerly pulled out maps so we could grasp which region they

were from, pulled out pictures of their wineries and showed us awards they had garnered.

And their pour was generous – not the kind one has experienced at a Virginia wine festival (sorry if I offend anyone but I'm sure we'd all agree that one needs enough of a taste to swirl the grape juice around in our mouths).

For those that wanted to try a lot of wines and still be able to walk and talk, buckets were provided on the tables as a means of disposal. White tablecloths correctly adorned the tasting tables so that the wine's color, body and legs could be easily evidenced.

One negative

The show is advertised as a "Food & Wine" show for the \$72 entry fee and I truly was anticipating an amuse bouche or two at the celebrity chef demonstrations from the likes of Café Atlantico, Zola, Olives, Charlie Palmer Steak House, Red Sage, Marcel's and Brasserie Les Halles to name a few. All that was

offered at the show were the usual suspects for wine pairing – domestic cheeses, artisan breads and olive oils. (Heavy sigh)

ropean and Caribbean departments of tourism, wine tasting instruction for private parties, culinary cooking classes, various wine and food magazines, fine cutlery, and high-end home appliances.

Virginia wineries had a nice presence at the show. Some of these included Chateau Morristette, First Colony, Horton, Ingelside Winery, Jefferson Vineyards, King Family, Kluge Winery, Lake Anna, Oasis Vineyards, Tarara, White Hall, Williamsburg Vineyard and Windham Winery.

Found roaming the hall, checking out the competition and generally having a good time was Jennifer McCloud, owner and winemaker for Chrysalis Winery, Middleburg. We tagged along, swapped favorites and had a great time catching up. She really knows her stuff!

It seems to me there's been a lot of new chatter about Norton, a native Virginia varietal that was a very popular grape in the 18th century. Norton thrives in the mid-Atlantic and produces a robust red wine with big fruit flavors that ages beautifully over the years. Some Virginia wineries that are committed to restoring the vine to its original place of prominence are Chrysalis Winery, Middleburg; Horton Vineyards, Gordonsville; and Veramar Vineyard, Berryville.

As a matter of fact, at the time of this writing, Veramar Vineyard was just awarded a Silver Medal for its Norton at the 2005 Dallas Morning News Wine Competition, the largest U.S. commercial wine competition outside of California. Virginia's wine industry has flourished in recent years. In 1979, only six wineries operated in the state and they weren't known for producing quality wines. Today, over 100 wineries exist making Virginia the fifth largest wine producer in the country yielding vintages that can stand beside those from international wine regions.

Lastly, the thing I took away from the show (in addition to a killer shopping list) was the sense of pride each vintner had – pride of their product and pride of their country. It was exhilarating to feel their enthusiasm. Each winery took their time with each attendee and made them feel most welcome. Similar to experiencing a European meal...unhurried with the enjoyment of being "in the moment" with the people you enjoy.

This year we made it our goal to sample red wines only – mostly full-bodied blends – so that our taste buds could stay focused; punctuated by intermittent stops at the cheese and bread tables to cleanse our palates, of course.

Debi's Best of Show: Reds

Argentina – 2003 Graffigna Malbec “G”

Australia – 2003 Yelcho Carmenere RSV, 2003 Alice White Shiraz, 2004 Andrew Peace Wines Masterpeace Shiraz/ Cabernet, 1999 & 2000 Stanley Brothers Barossa Valley Thoroughbred Cabernet & 2000 Stanley Brothers Barossa Valley August Shiraz

(For those spring race & Gold Cup tailgate hosts and hostesses, the Thoroughbred Cabernet wine is not only befitting but totally delicious!)

Chile – 2000 Donum – Santa Amalia (Cabernet, Merlot)

France – 2003 Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape Domaine de Bois Dauphin (Grenache & Syrah), 2003 Domaine Ferrer Ribiere from Roussillon (100 year old Carignan vines)

(If Americans were boycotting the French, you couldn't tell. The Chateauf-neuf-du-Pape table was 5 bodies deep !! “Excuser moi s'il vous plait” I shouted as I burrowed my way in).

Greece – 1999 Nemea Reserve Palivou Vineyards – Corinth.

South Africa – 2003 Brampton Shiraz, 2002 Diversity Gamma (Cabernet Sauvignon blend), 2002 & 2003 Roo-deberg, 2003 Goat Roti (Blend of Shiraz, Mourvedre and Viognier)

California – 2001 Sterling SVR (Sterling Vine Reserve), 2003 Michael & David Vineyards Earthquake Zinfandel

Non-wine vendors included exclusive international hotels and resorts, chauffeured wine tours, Eu-

a lot of new chatter about Norton, a native Virginia varietal that was a very popular grape in the

WE NEED TO REWORK OUR CONTRACTS

SEVENTH INNING STRETCH

ALEX CUDABACK

Here is the tale of the absolutely brain-scrambling argument Terrell Owens,, formerly of the 49ers, briefly with the Ravens, currently with the Eagles, gets to make to rework his contract.

T.O. signed a seven-year, \$49 million contract with the Philadelphia Eagles last summer. I am assuming that the contract includes some stipulation that T.O. will play football for each of those seven years, for the Eagles. Now, before completing even one calendar year, T.O. wants to throw the whole thing out and start from scratch.

Now, before you NFL con-

tract experts get yourselves all in a twist, I freely admit I am not an expert on NFL contracts. Luckily, I don't have to be! I understand that NFL contracts are not fully guaranteed; I also know that was a concession the NFLPA made in order to squeeze monstrous signing bonuses out of owners, which ARE guaranteed. . So talk to the union about it boys,, not to me.

For those of you in the back of the class, a brief recap:

- 1) T.O. slept through a filing deadline;
- 2) T.O. balked when he was traded to a team with a quarterback he deemed unworthy of his talents;
- 3) T.O. was allowed, after

much whining and hand-wringing, to sign a much larger, SEVEN-YEAR contract with the Eagles that included a guaranteed \$16 million signing bonus; 4) T.O. played one season, caught 14 touchdowns and had almost as many receiving yards as the rest of the Eagles receivers combined; 5) The Eagles did NOT win a Super Bowl; 6) T.O. did NOT win an MVP; 7) Now T.O. wants to start over.

Are there mitigating circumstances?

Sure. When aren't there mitigating circumstances?

T.O. and his new agent, Drew Rosenhaus, will tell you this is all the fault of T.O.'s old agent, David Joseph. Joseph was the mas-termind who missed the deadline for his golden-goose of a client to declare for free-agency, essentially stranding T.O. with the 49ers, a once-proud-franchise which has somehow been driven straight into the ground. That was the mitigating circumstance, folks, and it had nothing to do with the Eagles.

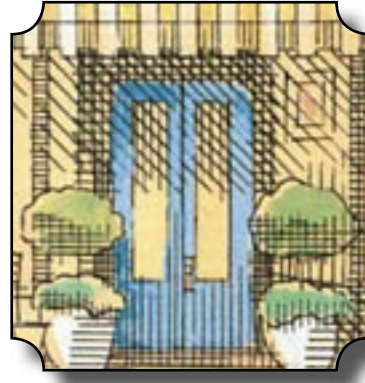
What the Eagles did was rescue T.O. from the Baltimore Ravens, a hard-scrabble bunch of guys who will punch you in the mouth every play on defense, but aren't exactly known for airing it

out on offense, to whom he'd been traded by the 49ers, seemingly as a cruel yet awfully funny joke.

Personally, if I were the Eagles, I'd keep Owens on ice for the length of his contract just to be obtuse. They can't tell him to take a walk. But they can make certain he spends what should be the most accomplished years of his career sitting in the corner with a dunce-cap on his head.

Unless, of course, we could somehow get him traded back to Baltimore.

Talk amongst yourselves. I've got to call my boss about a new contract.



flowers with a multitude of color variations that you see in nature itself. You might even add a drop of varietal fragrance to your selections!

More elaborate topiary standards of herb, bay laurel, myrtle or lavender give a lively but old-world feel without being stuffy. An olive wood basket brimming with tulips boasts bounty, while a single-stem bleeding heart rose emotes a very delicate but elegant look.

In flowers, fresh is always best, but faux is forever.

Permanent faux flowers, once a heresy, are now in full bloom in stylish homes all across Europe. That's because, today, permanent flowers are literally individual works of art.

Floral artists in Thailand work with special paper molds that sun dry in the tropical sun, and are then coated and assembled by hand. They're thicker, richer, and have the texture and feel of real

decorating. They can either take center stage or become the perfect compliment to the colors in your sofa or your window treatments.

Bring beautiful flowers inside to extend your garden – even if its your imaginary garden.

Whether fresh or faux, bring a bouquet inside to decorate your home.

Wanda Crossley is the owner of The English Manor in Leesburg, Virginia

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IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

MIDDLEBURG ANTIQUE EMPORIUM

ALL WORK FOR OUR PLEASURE - SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE



STEVEN SCHWARTZ

If you're hunting for antiques, there's a store in Middleburg where you'll have forty-five sets of eyes helping you in your quest. Lesley Clark and her partner Roger Mason have created an antiques "mall" at 107 W. Washington Street.

"We have 45 professional dealers who are selected for the quality of items they sell," Lesley added, "Our goal is to offer quality items for fair and reasonable prices."

The neat and orderly store is large and on two levels, brightly lit and stocked with a changing inventory that includes prints, maps and books, English porcelain (lots of Staffordshire and Meissen), furniture (mainly formal styles) from England, France, Europe and America. There are long case (grandfather) and mantel clocks, silver, sporting antiques, lamps and chandeliers, jewelry and lots more.

Lesley and husband John were born in England and lived in South Africa until six years ago when they opened the Emporium with Roger and Susie Mason. Lesley has been buying antiques for over 20 years, and travels to England 3 - 4 times a year. "I look for the very unusual and unique antiques you don't often see."

Leslie and sales associate Shelley Chadwick provide a range of services. "We offer shopping services, work with interior designers, and will locate particular items for customers. I also offer an antique decorating service, do appraisals by appointment, and ship all over the world. Just recently we sent a dining room table to England."

In one corner of the lower level there's a dealer with old fly fishing rods and creels, duck decoys, fish prints, and tin soldiers - so guys, you won't just be holding your wife's purse in the Middleburg Antique Emporium.



Middleburg Antique Emporium
107 W. Washington Street
Middleburg, Virginia 20117
540-687-8680

www.middleburgantiqueemporium.com

Open Daily 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM



ELEMENT H2O NAMED EXCLUSIVE WATER SUPPLIER FOR WMZQ

Element H2O Ultra Pure Water will be the exclusive water of WMZQ-FM (98.7), thanks to an agreement signed today by Clear Channel Communications Director of Sales Vasco Bramao and Element H2O Partner Marcus Stout. Broadcast from Rockville, Md., WMZQ is the third largest country music station in the entire country, with over an estimated daily audience of 1.5 million in the National Capital area.

Under the agreement, Element H2O will participate in promotions and contests for WMZQ. They will also supply and sell water at the more than 100 music events the radio station plans to host this year, using a special "Water on Wheels" vehicle provided by WMZQ and designed by Element H2O.

"As we looked for the right company to provide our water, we quickly became convinced that the water offered by Element H2O was definitely the way to go," said Bramao. "When you understand all of the health benefits of drinking this Ultra Pure water and combine that with the owners' shared values of dedication to excellence and customer service, and the decision was an easy one," he continued.

Element H2O Ultra Pure Water, purified and bottled at a new Chantilly, Va. plant, derives its Ultra Pure status from a unique multi-step purification process that also lends a uniquely refreshing taste. Purified water is the preferred choice of physicians and hospitals and is becoming an increasingly popular alternative to bottled mineral and spring waters, which have limited shelf lives and are prone to bacte-

rial development. Element H2O Ultra Pure Water has no expiration date.

WMZQ is also taking advantage of another Element H2O offering: private labeling. "The personalized label services we offer allowed us to create a custom label for our partnership with WMZQ, and the same service is available to the public," said Marcus Stout. Any Element H2O Ultra Pure Water customer ordering a minimum of two cases (48 bottles) can create their own label online at www.ElementH2O.com by either customizing an existing template or developing something all their own.

Clear Channel Communications, Inc., headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, is a global leader in the out-of-home advertising industry with radio and television stations, outdoor displays and entertainment venues in 40 countries around the world. Including announced transactions, Clear Channel operates approximately 1,140 radio and 18 television stations in the United States and has equity interests in more than 240 radio stations internationally.

Clear Channel also operates more than 750,000 outdoor advertising displays, including billboards, street furniture and transit panels across the world. Clear Channel Entertainment is the world's largest diversified promoter, producer and presenter of live entertainment events and is a leading fully integrated sports marketing and management company. Locally, Clear Channel owns: WMZQ; WASH; WBIG; WTEM; WTNT; WTEM; WWRC & WWDC.

JOHN COLES
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Morven

Markham, Virginia

Morven is a meticulously restored neoclassical house, stucco over stone begun in 1819. A two-story addition includes a kitchen with fireplace and seating area. Situated on 85 acres of open pasture and paddocks in 4 parcels. Improvements include 4-stall barn with heated tack room, laundry, and wash stall. The original brick kitchen has been turned into a comfortable guest house. Close to many hunt territories. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places. \$3,500,000.



22204 Willisville Road

Upperville, Virginia

Charming frame and log colonial on 17.55 acres in excellent Upperville location. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, pine and cherry floors, log family room, and 2 fireplaces. Improvements include 4 stall barn with tack and feed room, run in shed, 2 paddocks, in-ground pool with back terrace, mountain views. \$1,450,000.



Phoenix Hill

Middleburg, Virginia

Lovely brick colonial with 5 spacious bedrooms and 3 1/2 baths. Located on 14 pristine acres bordering Goose Creek in Middleburg. Improvements include inground gunite pool, pond and two paddocks. \$2,100,000.



Mulberry

Middleburg, Virginia

True Middleburg location, minutes from town, surrounded by large estates. Stately brick Georgian Circa 1965, completely updated and enlarged by current owners. 4 bedrooms, large studio, 6 full baths, 7 fireplaces, paneled library, spectacular entrance hall, exquisite detail throughout, high ceilings, lovely molding. Improvements include 22 x 50 inground pool, new pool house with kitchenette, spa, and entertainment area, 3-stall barn, brick tenant house. 75 gently rolling acres, with 35 acres of potential pasture, landscaped lawns with sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. \$4,500,000.



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Land

Middleburg, Virginia

Creek Ridge Lane- Hard to find 25 acre wooded lot within minutes of Middleburg. Perc site approved, mountain views in winter, stone walls, private, and frontage on Goose Creek. \$675,000.



Stringfellow Farm

Round Hill, Virginia

Grand country home, restored and enlarged. 8-12 bedrooms, 9 1/2 baths, 3 fireplaces, 13,000 square feet. Ample room for a home office. Amenities include built-in bookcases, bar and wood floors. Situated on 17.91 acres, gently rolling and mostly open with mountain views. Improvements include a barn, pool with pool house, and 2-car garage. \$1,875,000.



Rocky Mist Meadow

Delaplane, Virginia

Immaculate 4 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath brick colonial on 26 +/- open rolling acres bound by Goose Creek. Highlights include great room with two-story gas fireplace, well-equipped kitchen, large master bedroom and bath with jacuzzi tub, and gorgeous views from every window. 3-car garage and shed. \$1,450,000.



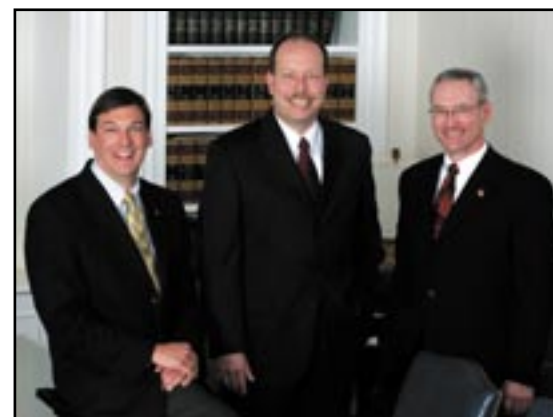
Sutherland

Bluemont, Virginia

Unbelievable story book setting, stone and frame home on hilltop surrounded by mature hardwoods with bold Blue Ridge Mountain views. 3 bedrooms, den, 2 full baths, fireplace in living room. 3-stall barn with tack and feed room on 3 acres. Stone walls, walkways, and front and rear terrace. \$990,000.

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS

FAUQUIER BANKERS TO LAUNCH MIDDLEBURG BANK'S FIRST FAUQUIER LOCATION



Middleburg Bank will open its first financial center in Fauquier County this June. The office launch will be engineered by Gary Shook, Bob Sylcox, and Ronnie Jenkins, three senior Fauquier County banking executives. The three bankers will be responsible for Middleburg Bank's Fauquier County operations.

"We're all thrilled to be leading the Middleburg team here in Fauquier County," said Gary Shook, Middleburg Bank's new Warrenton/Fauquier Community Executive, speaking on behalf of the new team. "The Middleburg Bank community oriented, high personal service philosophy and sophisticated line of financial products are a perfect match for our banking style and Fauquier County. We can't wait to get started."

Joe Boling, President and CEO of Middleburg Bank was also pleased. "Even before opening our first Fauquier financial center, we already enjoy serving about one thousand Fauquier County households. So, we know our banking style and the people of Fauquier are a good match. Being able to partner with top quality, community bankers like Gary, Bob and Ronnie will make our Fauquier product even more attractive. We couldn't be happier."

Gary Shook brings nearly 25 years of financial services experience to Middleburg Bank and will serve as the bank's Fauquier County Community Executive. In his career, he has served in a senior management capacity overseeing almost every aspect of bank operations. Since graduating from the University of Virginia in 1982, Mr. Shook has been employed by several community banks and investment services companies, all located in Virginia. For the last decade, Mr. Shook has served as a senior executive at Fauquier Bank. He is involved in the Fauquier community, previously serving as President of the Warrenton Rotary Club, Chairman of the Bluemont Concert Series, Director of the Partnership for Warrenton Foundation, and is presently serving as Vestryman at St. James Episcopal Church and Vice Chair & Director

of the Fauquier/Warrenton Chamber of Commerce.

Bob Sylcox will serve as Senior Vice President, Senior Commercial Lender, Fauquier County. Over the last 27 years, Sylcox has worked in various capacities including Senior Commercial Lender at Fauquier Bank. He's involved in the Fauquier community, holding various officer positions in the Warrenton Ruritan Club since 1983 and serving as President of the John Marshall Club. He has resided in Fauquier County for the last 27 years and served in the United States Army Reserves, retiring in 2002 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Ronnie Jenkins joins the team as Vice President, Commercial Lending. Jenkins has spent nearly 30 years in banking with responsibilities ranging from Branch Manager to Consumer Loan Officer to Commercial Lender. Most recently, Jenkins was Assistant Vice President and Business Services Officer at BB&T. His community involvement is extensive including current board member of the Piedmont United Way, past Chairman of the March of Dimes Walk America and past Treasurer of a local chapter of the Jaycees.

In November 2004, Middleburg Bank also added Harry Atherton to its Board of Directors. Mr. Atherton operates a farm in Fauquier County and is a well-known community leader. He is a member of various organizations, commissions and boards and is currently Chairman of the Fauquier County Board of Supervisors. He has served as Chairman of the Fauquier County Planning Commission and was a member of the Agricultural and Forest District Advisory Committee, the Agricultural Development Committee, the Virginia Association of Counties and the Marshall Business and Residents Association.

Middleburg Bank's first Fauquier location will open this June at 530 Blackwell Road in Warrenton in a building formerly housing a BB&T branch. The bank has also purchased land on Waterloo Road where it intends to open another office. The bank continues to search for other appropriate locations throughout Fauquier County.

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PHOTOS BY JAY HUBBARD

PATRICIA BARRAZA VOS

Loudoun Therapeutic Riding Foundation is a Grande Dame in a relatively new field that uses horses as tools to help the disabled. Established 31 years ago, it was founded to provide riding lessons to disabled students when the county and the needs for such services were small. As the county has grown (and grown and grown) so has the need for all its services, and a major fundraising campaign is currently underway to ensure that LTRF can grow axiomatically to meet those needs. The Foundation is raising funds as it always had – from a combination of corporate grants, personal giving and of course their annual event which will take place this year April 23 at Landsdowne Resort in Leesburg. This year, Betty Oare will be honored as the recipient of the annual “Equitarian Award,” and former Redskin Tom Carter will be attend the gala event to receive his “Spirit of Sport Award.”

Morven Park

Currently 12 trustworthy, fit and happy horses along with seven certified instructors, 120 volunteers and four staffers are at the ready to serve their ever-growing client base. Seventy students, most between the ages of 5 and 13, ride on a weekly basis at the Foundation’s Morven Park facilities while another 80 are waitlisted at any given time. “There’s isn’t a lot of turnover,” explains Program Director, Joanne Hart.

Hart who has been with the program since 1984, has witnessed first hand the remarkable benefits and the enjoyable, one might say, addicting nature of the therapy. “Once kids get started, they tend to stay. We had one little girl who started with us at age 2 and stayed until she was 20.” The fun factor is one reason kids remain with the program but Hart also points to a lack of outdoor opportunities for disabled children in Loudoun County. “The County is growing so fast,” says Hart. “Most programs have waitlists.” In order to accommodate more students, the fundraising campaign will build a comprehensive, expanded facility within the grounds of Morven Park. “I can’t say enough about Morven Park,” says Hart as she explains their relationship with the Equestrian Center there. “They are so good to us.”

New Center

The new center will include offices, an indoor riding ring, stables, a viewing room and a therapy room. Having all their facilities essentially under one roof will allow them to expand their program and include more riders. While funds are raised and plans finalized for the new center, LTRF carries on its work as it always has. Between April and November on any given day classes are given to children with a wide range of physical, mental and/or emotional disabilities. But much more is going on then plain old fun with horses.

Therapeutic riding has been formally used by therapists since about the mid 1950s as a means of improving the lives of the disabled. The science of equine assisted therapy started in Europe and then was established by interested parties in this country in the Sixties. At first the approach was embraced by just a handful of therapy professionals. Then a meeting took place in Middleburg that heralded the beginning of the organization that has grown and matured into what is now known as NARHA (North American Riding for the Handicapped Association). That meeting took place at the Red Fox Inn in November 1969. Approximately two-dozen professionals gathered there to form the organization that today oversees the training and certification of therapeutic riding professionals, as well as the promoting awareness of the benefits of equine therapy. According to NARHA’s Mission Statement, “Because horseback riding gently and rhythmically moves the rider’s body in a manner similar to a human gait, riders with physical disabilities often show improvement in flexibility, balance and muscle strength. For individuals with mental or emotional disabilities, the unique relationship formed with the horse can lead to increased confidence, patience and self-esteem.” Equestrians everywhere can attest to the therapeutic nature of their time spent with horses. NARHA and its af-

filiate partner American Hippotherapy Association (AHA) create guidelines and instructions for therapists who hope to harness that equine therapy on behalf of their client base. Above all, safety is stressed. Clients are mounted on safe horses (which are donated to program centers). Then each rider has at least one leader and up to two “side-walkers,” volunteers who walk along side the horse and rider just in case the rider lose his balance. Physicians, teachers and therapists refer students to the Loudoun program. Those professionals then work with the staff members to develop a program that addresses the specific needs of each student. Key to helping each student reach his or her goal is an appropriate equine partner. Loudoun is lucky to have 12 of the most gracious horses and ponies to do so. On an early April morning, just before the 2005 season begins, they quietly graze and playfully amuse themselves. Thoroughbreds, draft crosses, quarter horses and one very charming Connemara cross pony provide the equestrian part of the team – crucial contributors to a program that provides safe, effective therapy and plain old fun. For more information regarding the program or to make reservations for the gala fundraiser, which will include dinner, dancing, and live and silent auction, contact Joanne Hart at jhart@ltrf.org or call (703) 771-2689.



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PARENTS & PROGENY

ABC NEWS VISITS NOTRE DAME ACADEMY



Notre Dame Academy Chaplain, Father Michael Sliney, LC, was recently featured on ABC World News Saturday in a story about celibacy in the priesthood. As part of the story, ABC news visited Notre Dame Academy to get insight into Father Michael's work with students at the Catholic high school in Middleburg. The crew filmed Mass in the school's intimate and historic chapel, and in theology class, where students engaged in open discussion with Father Michael about a variety of issues ranging from the selection of the next pope to life as a priest.

SCHOOL NEWS

LOCAL STUDENT NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Richard Danker, son of Richard and Janet Danker of Middleburg was named to the honorable mention dean's list for the 2004 fall semester at Lynchburg College in Lynchburg, Virginia. Danker, a 2001 graduate of Wakefield High School, is a senior political science and English major at Lynchburg College.

STONEWALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Nicole Bailey of Haymarket, Virginia has been named an All American Scholar. The United States Achievement Academy established the All-American Scholar Program to offer deserved recognition to superior students who excel in the academic disciplines. The All-American Scholars must earn a 3.3, or higher, grade point average. Only scholars selected by a school instructor, counselor or other qualified sponsor are accepted.

Nicole is the daughter of Stephen and Suk Bailey of Haymarket, Virginia. She is the granddaughter of Katherine Mauerman of Salt Lake City, Utah and Cheon and Myo Byun of Honolulu, Hawaii.

HIGHLAND SCHOOL

On Thursday, March 10, the Primary and Lower Schools participated with the Middle and Upper School bands and the Upper School string ensemble in the world's largest concert sponsored by the National Association for Music Education. On that day, at 1 p.m., more than six million students, teachers and community members around the world joined in the effort to focus attention on music in schools.

The Upper School spring musical "Little Shop of Horrors" will be April 7-9, 2005. A favorite musical for all generations (except very little kids), this show just enjoyed a great revival on Broadway. Come see the carnivorous plant wreak havoc on an unsuspecting public. 7:30 p.m. shows; \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Earth Day preparations are in full swing and several major events have been scheduled:

On Tuesday, April 5, Joseph Lemasolai Lekuton—Maa-sai tribesman and Middle School teacher at the Langley School—will visit Highland. He will speak to Upper School students from 10-11 a.m., and to Lower and Middle School students from 11:15 a.m. until noon. Between noon and 1 p.m., Lekuton will tour the School and host a book signing in the Loeb Library of his children's book "Facing the Lion."

On Monday, April 18, Chris Johns—international wildlife photographer and newly named Editor of National Geographic—will speak to students about the importance of conservation in Africa and its impact on our daily lives. Johns will also showcase some of his photographic works. He will meet with the Primary and Lower Schools from 10-11 a.m., and the Middle and Upper Schools from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Also during the week of April 18th, an African Market featuring goods produced in Africa and items with an African theme, will be held with proceeds to benefit the Enkijape School in Kenya.

On Wednesday, April 20 in concert with ongoing Earth Day activities, Ambassador Leonard Ngaithe—the Ambassador of Kenya—will visit with Highland students. He will speak at the morning assemblies in the Lower, Middle and Upper Schools. Also part of this day is a performance by the Kusun Ensemble, whose members hail from the National Ballet and the Pan African Orchestra. There will also be many other "hands-on" activities that day to familiarize students with Africa.

Math contest #5 high scorers were Nick Halgren and Nathan Bryan.

Information about the 2005 summer camp program is available by visiting www.highland-school.org and clicking on the Summer 2005 link. Questions or comments may be e-mailed to summercamp@highland-school.org or call (540) 347-1221, ext. 1219.

MIDDLEBURG ELEMENTARY

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Registration will be held at Middleburg Elementary on Tuesday, April 19, 2005. Children who will be five on or before September 30th are eligible to enroll. Parents should bring the original birth certificate and proof of Loudoun residency, such as a deed or rental agreement.

If you reside in Loudoun, but live outside of the Middleburg Elementary boundary, you may register your child by special request. Please contact Middleburg's principal, Gary Wilkers, at 703-771-6680 for more information.

All-County Chorus

Congratulations to Middleburg Elementary students Acey Hotchkiss and Courtney Yates who were selected to represent Middleburg at the All-County Chorus to be held on Saturday, April 23.

Acey is the daughter of Dale and Heide Hotchkiss, and Courtney is the daughter of Derek and Dawn Yates.

Arbor Day Contest

Middleburg Elementary students participated in the Arbor Day Poster contest sponsored by the Loudoun Soil and Conservation District and the Loudoun Arbor Day Committee. The top 50 posters were selected from over 250 entries. Of the top 50 winners, 23 winners were Middleburg Elementary students!

All winners were recognized at the 17th Annual Loudoun Arbor Day Celebration at Banshee Reeks Nature Preserve.

Congratulations to the following winners and to Middleburg's art teacher, Mrs. Cheryl Suitor.

Kindergartners: Ryan Basinger, Katie McGroddy, Alexis Nalls, and Hannah Rutti; First Graders: Mary Elaine Bolland, Henry Feil, Jorge Ibarra-Mendoza, Hugo Sandoval, and Laura Tafur; Second Graders: Hannah All, Rocelia Godoy,

Jose Ibarra-Mendoza, Alexis Simms, Cory Singh, and Cole Smith; Third Graders: Bernadette Bolland and Jake Singh; Fourth Graders: Debbie Cadenas and Leigh George; and Fifth Graders: Chloe Passarello, Omar Sandoval, Anna Smallwood, and Courtney Yates.

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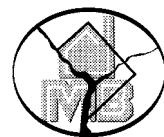


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PARENTS & PROGENY

THREE LITTLE WOLVES AND THE BIG BAD PIG

PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON



Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig was directed by Ms. Heather Wines with children playing all the roles and with enormous support and cooperation from the parents. Middleburg Community Center produced the play. The cast included Debbie Cadenas as Big, Bad Pig; James Macleod as 4 Sales Animals; Mary Marshall Pierce as Mother/Narrator; Bradley Cole as Black Wolf; Acey Hotchkiss as White Wolf and Caroline Quanbeck as Brown Wolf.

SCHOOLS & ZONING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

"The school board survives in the east on proffers," said Druhan, "but that doesn't work out here." Audience members repeatedly asked about using a Franklin Park site or other locations near Round Hill or Lovettsville for the high school, which is expected to be open in the 2008-2009 time frame.

Western Loudoun resident and well-known activist Marcia Degarmo asked about the status of western land use policy given the recent Supreme Court ruling that overturned the revised Loudoun zoning ordinance. Chairman York, who was deprived of most of the traditional prerogatives of board chairman at the first meeting of the newly elected board in 2004, responded, "I'm not controlling the agenda so I can't promise anything. I hope the board will make a public statement about going forward, and that at a minimum there will be opportunities for public input."

Middleburg area resident Jean Ann Feneis asked about the court ruling's affect on

the Salamander Inn project. York said "(Dr. Johnson) is in a predicament" because non-residential uses such as the inn, which were permitted under the revised ordinance, are now in limbo until the board responds to the Supreme Court decision.

York said citizens were let down when the Loudoun board refused to go back to the court for reconsideration, given that other jurisdictions might have joined a Loudoun appeal. When a citizen asked whether the western secession movement to create Catoctin County put pressure on the Loudoun board to moderate its actions, York and Burton said yes. York and Burton (who said he is familiar with the frustration that he heard voiced in the audience) also strongly urged citizens to contact the Board of Supervisors directly to make their concerns about issues known.

York promised that he would hold similar meetings in the future in other areas of the western county.



Kaelan had plans to play with his friends, not visit the Emergency Room. But a racing heart and loss of breath landed him at Loudoun Hospital's ER where Dr. George Rudden diagnosed Supra Ventricular Tachycardia. Kaelan was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children where pediatric cardiac specialist Dr. Margaret Bell performed a Catheter Ablation giving Kaelan back his normal heart rate, causing everyone to breathe a lot easier.

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THINGS TO DO

POETRY CONTEST SPONSORED BY LOUDOUN LITERA- CY COUNCIL

The Loudoun Literacy Council would like to recognize April as National Poetry Month. To highlight the month, a poetry contest for adults will be sponsored by the Council.

Sponsoring this contest is an opportunity for Loudouners to show off their talents and skills with the written word. It is also a great way for local businesses to show their support for a worthy cause in a fun and meaningful way.

The Literacy Council will have judges review poems submitted as entries to one of seven categories. The categories are: The Lord Loudoun, Sir William Morton Sonnet, Sir Dudley Wyatt, Catherine Culpepper Light Verse, Nicholas Minor Haiku, James Fields Courage, and Polly Philipse Poetry of Love. Each award category features an individual from Loudoun County history. The winners of each category will be announced at Loudoun Reads Day on May 20, 2005. This event will be held on the lawn of the Loudoun County Courthouse.

Submissions of entries begin April 1, 2005 and must be received by April 29, 2005. Entrants must be residents of Loudoun County and must be 18 years or older. A fee of five dollars made payable to the Loudoun Literacy Council is required for each entry. Additional competition guidelines as well as

sponsorship and judging opportunities can be found at www.loudounliteracy.org/poetry.

FOXCROFT FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS ANNIE

Foxcroft extends an invitation to the local community to attend the Saturday matinee performance of its spring production, *Annie*, on Saturday, April 30th at 2p.m. in FoxHound Auditorium.

Annie the musical was written by Martin Charnin and Charles Strouse, based upon the Little Orphan Annie comic strip. Local student Joanna French will play Annie, along with another hometown performer, Steve Matthews, as Oliver "Daddy" Warbucks. Veteran of the Foxcroft stage Alex Northrup takes on the role of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and another Hill School grad, Adrienne Teeley, will play orphan Duffy. The villainous Miss Hannigan will be played by senior Marina Spencer of Washington, DC. Tommie Herbert, daughter of Stewart and Jim Herbert of Middleburg, takes on the role of Lily.

Foxcroft School is located on Route 626 (Foxcroft Road) four miles north of the center of Middleburg. For more information, call 540.687.5555.

SKY MEADOW STATE PARK

Saturday, May 7: A Day in Wildflower Woods from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Saturday, May 7 at

Sky Meadows State Park. Discover the names and folklore of Blue Ridge wildflowers amid the

biggest display of large-flowered trilliums in the U.S. We'll walk 4 leisurely miles in Thompson Wildlife Management Area. Reservations and the \$8 fee are due by Thursday, May 5. Please call Sky Meadows State Park at 540-592-3556. Bring water and lunch, wear sturdy shoes, and dress for the weather.

1800s Clothing and Sewing Machines between 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM on

Saturday, May 7 and Sunday, May 8 at Sky Meadows State Park. Visit the Mount Bleak parlor and see authentic mid-1800s clothing, as well as an antique sewing machine display. Collectors Clifford Shelton and Charles Taylor will gladly answer your questions. Free.

Astronomy for Everyone between sunset and 11 PM on **Saturday, May 7** at Sky Meadows State Park. As the sky darkens, find out about U.S. space research from NASA/JPL "Solar System Ambassadors." At dark, take a sky tour with Sean O'Brien of the Smithsonian Albert Einstein Planetarium, and look for deep sky objects through large telescopes with the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club. If the sky is cloudy, only the NASA/JPL program will be presented, and the park gates will close at 10 PM.

Free. Meet behind the Mount Bleak house.

Saturday, May 14: What's That Wildflower? from 10:30 AM to noon on Saturday, May 14 at Sky Meadows State Park. If you

want to get better acquainted with wildflowers, please join nature interpreter Robyn Nolen on this half-mile stroll. Discover "family traits" of flower groups, and then use a field guide to identify new flowers. Please bring water and wear sturdy shoes. Free. Meet behind the Mount Bleak house.

ANTIQUE'S ROAD- SHOW APPRAISER TO LECTURER AT WATERFORD FOUN- DATION'S ANTIQUE AUCTION PREVIEW EVENT

On Saturday, May 21, Marybeth Keene, appraiser on PBS's Antiques Roadshow and noted expert on antique textiles as well as

eighteenth and nineteenth century furniture and folk art, will lecture at the Old School in Waterford, VA at the preview event for the Waterford Foundation's Antiques, Crafts and Art Auction. Registration begins at 6:30. Following, guests will preview auction items and have the chance to bid on silent auction items at a wine and cheese event. Tickets are \$25 and are available by calling 540-882-3018 or can be purchased at the door.

The Waterford Foundation will hold a live auction of quality antiques, crafts donated by the Waterford Fair crafters and original art on Sunday, May 22, 2005 at 2pm. A silent auction and preview will take place prior, starting at Noon. Event proceeds will be used to underwrite the interest

costs and preservation efforts associated with the successful 2003 purchase of the Phillips Farm—a 144-acre swath of land within the National Historic Landmark District of Waterford, Virginia.

The Sunday afternoon auction will be the highlight of a weekend filled with activities that include a Saturday morning 10K run.

For more information, call the Waterford Foundation at 540-882-3018 or visit the website at www.WaterfordVA.org.

THE MOSBY HERI- TAGE AREA ASSO- CIATION HOSTS THE SCREENING OF CRAZY LIKE A FOX

Beautifully shot in Loudoun and Clarke counties, the heart of the Mosby Heritage Area, *Crazy Like A Fox* tells a story, with wit and humor, about how one eccentric Virginia farmer, Nat Banks, inspires a community-wide rebellion as he fights to save his ancestral home. "What the movie is really about is history and values," said producer Patricia Foulkrod. "When you lose your history you lose your values, and it's very hard to get them back."

The film has garnered several awards for Squires including the DC Filmmaker Award from the DC Independent Film Festival, the Slate Award for Best Director from the California Independent Film Festival and the Directors Cinematography Award from the Wood's Hole Film Festival.

The Mosby Heritage Area Association will host this exclusive screening of Richard Squires' film *Crazy Like A Fox* on Thursday, May 5, 2005 at 7:30pm at the Tally Ho Theatre in historic downtown Leesburg.

Immediately following the screening, Mr. Squires will be on hand for a question and answer session where he will discuss his craft, how it can be used to help raise awareness of the importance of rural, cultural, and historic preservation, and the role and responsibility of artists in the media. The Mosby Heritage Area Association will provide information about their programs and provide information as to how citizens of the Mosby Heritage Area can become involved in the preservation of their heritage.

Advance tickets are available from the MHAA for \$10 or they can be obtained for \$15 at the door. For further information or to reserve seats at the advance price, call the Mosby Heritage Area Association at 540-687-6681 or email them at info@mosbyheritagearea.org.



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Sunday, May 1 — Book signing: Rockville Pike
Susan Coll, a talented author from Maryland, will be with us from 3-5 p.m. to sign her new book, *Rockville Pike*. The Washington Post's "Book World" calls the heroine of Rockville Pike, Jane, an "every Woman [who] longs to look like the model in the catalogue that drops through her mail slot; she longs for satisfaction and happiness." Join us to pick up your signed copy and meet the author who understands modern motherhood all too well.

On Sunday, April 24, from 3-5 p.m., Jason Tesaro from Barboursville Vineyards will offer samples of wines from this extraordinary vineyard. Sushi and fine cheeses will be served to compliment the wine Jason chooses for us. Tickets for this event will be available on April 1, so be sure to purchase your ticket early because space is limited to 40 participants. The ticket price, which is \$25 per person or \$35 per couple, includes all you can taste, all you can eat, and a copy of the definitive wine guide, *Hugh Johnson's Pocket Wine Book*, 2005. Call us at 540-687-6677 to reserve your space for this delightful gathering.

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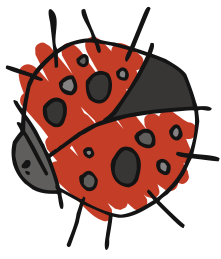
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FACES & PLACES

TWELVE DANCING PRINCESSES

BELMONT RIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL ~ FEBRUARY 26, 2005

PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON

Twelve Dancing Princesses' opened to thundering applause as VSA Arts debuted their 15th season. VSA Arts Virginia-Loudoun is a fully inclusive visual and performing arts program that provides discovery opportunities with or without disabilities. Opening night was spectacular fun for all concerned and helped the organization continue its important work.

Director Benjamin Shoenberger thanked the actors, their families and all involved for welcoming him into this special

family.

"The magic I've seen throughout this rehearsal process has been truly amazing," Shoenberger said. "The cast has been wonderfully supportive of each other, something that is unique in my experience."

All VSA Arts productions are original musical adaptations of fairy tales written by Alice Power. Mrs. Power, now artistic director is a long-time volunteer, has also served as director, lyricist and composer, producer, costumer and set mover.



WENDY WILLIAMSON



CRAIG BORNARTH



CECILIA BRACEY



VISITING PRINCESS



MARIN TURNER



LAUREN OAKLEY, CAROL PADGETT, TARA PADGETT



ELIZABETH BRACEY, KATE TRASK, CECILIA BRACEY



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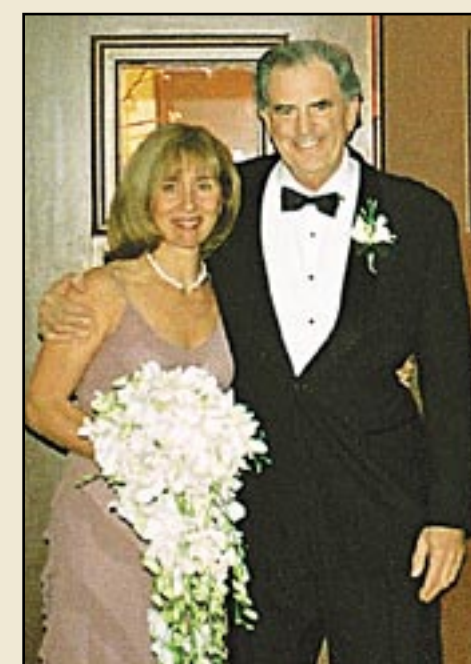
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LUCINDA WILLIAMS

MIDDLEBURG NEWLY WED

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FACES & PLACES

HAM & TURKEY DINNER

MIDDLEBURG FIRE HOUSE ~ APRIL 2, 2005
PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the April 2nd Ham & Turkey Dinner at the Middleburg Firehouse. Sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary to benefit Middleburg's Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, the \$10 charge for adults provided a delicious feast.

Initiatives like this play a fundamental and critical funding role to keep our Volunteer Fire and Rescue Teams well staffed and well equipped. It only takes one frighten-

ing incident to make us all realize how important these valiant individuals are in our community.

Children three and under are never charged for their dinners, and children four-to-twelve

Pay only \$5 to enjoy the feast.

Citizens from all around the area know how important it is to support the Ladies Auxiliary events, and this one was no exception.



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HILL SCHOOL 6TH GRADE PRESENTS 'GREASE'

HILL SCHOOL PLAY HOUSE ~ MARCH 2, 2005
PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON



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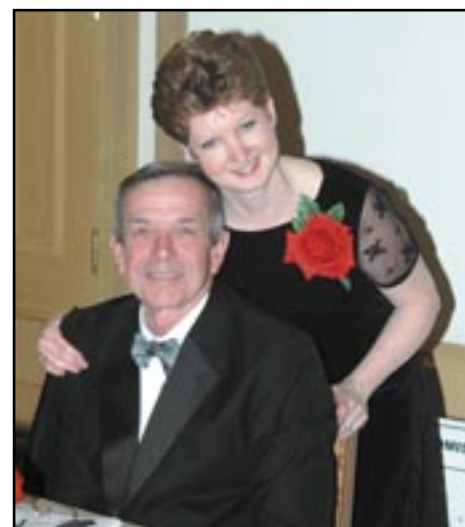
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LANSDOWNE RESORT GRAND BALLROOM ~ APRIL 9, 2005
PHOTOS BY DEE DEE HUBBARD



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LAURIE ROOT



JULIE RASMUSSEN, JAY MILLER, ALLYSON RUSCITELLA, AMY BURNS, AMANDA MILLER, SENATOR BILL MIMS



DAVID GOLDBERG, JANELL HOFFMAN

Loudoun Healthcare Honors the Memory of Former Director Elizabeth, "Beth," Miller

"What a wonderful night for Loudoun Healthcare Foundation," said Loudoun Hospital Vice President of Development David Goldberg as the Gala Vintage and Vine Benefit to honor Beth Miller concluded.

"Until we reconcile expenses we cannot share our net proceeds, but by all accounts it was a huge success. More than 520 people crowded the Lansdowne Resort Ballroom to show respect for Beth and raise funds for cancer care and the expansion of surgical services in Loudoun."

"I know Beth would be proud of the vision, execution and leadership her children and friends showed by organizing such a dynamic event," Goldberg continued. "We owe a great debt of gratitude to Beth's children, Jay Miller, Allyson Ruscitella, Amy Burns, Amanda Miller."

"Beth will be missed, but her family is taking over where she left off and Loudoun will be a brighter place thanks to Beth's contributions and vision."

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY 10TH ANNUAL AUCTION & GALA

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY ~ MARCH 19, 2005

A Night at the Oscars", Notre Dame Academy's 10th Annual Auction & Gala, was held Saturday, March, 19. The event raised more than \$60,000 for the school, a record take for the annual event.

Nearly 300 parents, friends, and family

of Notre Dame Academy packed the gym at The Hill School in Middleburg to celebrate the event. Prizes such as trips, cash, jewelry, collectibles, antique home furnishings, sports and event tickets, lifestyle activities, and professional photography services were won.



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FACES & PLACES

WAKEFIELD PIZZAZZ

WAKEFIELD SCHOOL ~ MARCH 19, 2005
PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON



GINGER & RICHARD WALLACH



HARRIET CLUBB



ELIZABETH BELLER, PETE & MARY ANN SACRIPANTI

Wakefield Parent Association held its biggest event of the year: Wakefield Pizzazz 2005, the annual auction. This year's auction, themed "A Passage to Shangri La," included cocktail hour and a private preview of auction items for Patrons, a reception and silent auction, a sumptuous dinner, a live auction with "auctioneer" and Wakefield parent Mike O'Meara of WJFK, and dancing to the Gene Donati Orchestra. This year's auction was extremely successful and looks to exceed last year's results in providing direct financial support to the school's programs. Auction Co-Chairs for 2005 were Angela and Ted Guarriello of Millwood and Stacey and Mel Lukens of Haymarket.



JACQUELINE OHRSTROM, ANJELA GUARRIELLO, CHRISTINA LIZZIO, AMRIT DARYANANI



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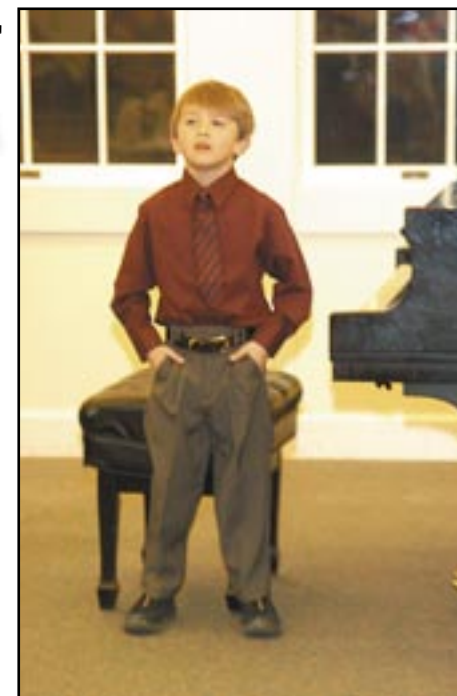
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HILL SCHOOL ~ FEBRUARY 28, 2005
PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON



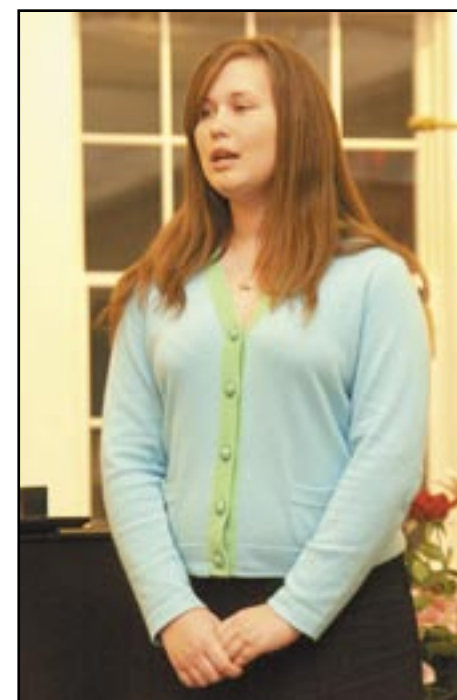
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ELIZABETH STREETER



DENISON CATESBY



AUSTIN SALLEY

UPPERVILLE GARDEN CLUB DAFFODIL SHOW

UPPERVILLE TRINITY CHURCH ~ APRIL 4, 2005
PHOTOS BY JIM POSTON

For 42 years, daffodil aficionados from all over the tri-state area have journeyed to Upperville, VA, in the heart of the Hunt Country, for the annual Upperville Garden Club Daffodil Show. This year, the show was open to spectators on April 5, from 2-5 p.m. and featured over 124 classes of daffodils plus five artistic classes for arrangements. One artistic class was open to other area garden clubs as neighborly competition. The horticulture competition has earned accreditation from the American Daffodil Society.



FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Middleburg Humane Foundation



beautifully! Marmy needs a lot of room to play and run, she would make a fun family friend.



SOPRANO

Soprano is a 6 year old 13.2H pony mare who has been under saddle for the past year. She has been shown locally by juniors and has also been on trail rides. Soprano is 100% sound and very attractive. She is still green so she needs an experienced handler and rider.



DANCY- Dancy was rescued from a severely neglectful owner. She was chained and starving. Dancy is now very healthy and enjoying her new life here at the

shelter. She is great with people and kids but not good with kitties. Dancy is a great dog who truly deserves a second chance at a happy,

JACKIE

Jackie is a 4 yr. old purebred Jack Russell Terrier with the sweetest eyes you've ever seen. She is very affectionate with a spunky personality! Found in West Virginia, Jackie was



in need of medical attention due to a large inguinal hernias. She is recovering nicely and hoping to find her forever home!



ment and joy into your home!

BUZZ-BUZZ



is an adorable Beagle/Spaniel ? mix puppy born approx. Jan. 2nd . He is well socialized with children, cats and other dogs. Buzz has a wonderful personality, he is happy & funloving. Buzz will grow to be a medium sized dog. A truly wonderful family friend!



AMIE

Amie is an 11 month old gorgeous Belgian paint horse cross filly from Canada. She has completed a 30 day training program for ground manners and has a wonderful, gentle temperament. Amie will

grow to be a good sized horse. She needs a home where she can continue to grow and learn. Amie has a great big future!

KITTIES!

Various ages, sexes and colors in need of good homes. Please come to our shelter to meet and greet an adorable group of kittens and young adult cats. One is cuter than the next! Starting at 7 weeks of age and up. All kitties are AIDS/Leukemia negative and has started their vaccines and dewormings. The spay/neuters are included in our adoption program. Ask about our "Buddy program" to help keep friends together.

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at the shelter! Teddy is excellent with children and cats, but needs to be an only dog. Teddy has good manners, is very kind and affectionate and has completed basic obedience classes. A true sweetie!



MICHAEL

Michael is a 1 year old super affectionate, loving kitty notorious for sitting on shoulders! Very

playful and a lot of fun! Michael has been blind since birth but you would barely notice! He gets around beautifully and is an absolute love muffin! Michael will need a calm, indoor only home.



BEN & JERRY

These little brothers are the cutest little kids in the world! (much cuter in person I must add!) Two 8 week old Beagle pups who have started their vaccines & deworming. Ben & Jerry are very cuddly and incredibly fun and out going. Wonderful family friends.

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You are what you eat, and so are we. It is critical that dogs and cats have access to the energy, vitamins and minerals necessary for a healthy life. Unfortunately, many of the best-selling pet foods on the market are some of the worst offenders when it comes to undesirable ingredients. While many animals exist on these sub-par diets, they do not exist well. In people terms, it's like raising a child on a steady diet of junk food. The child will grow up, but the long-range picture won't be pretty. It's the same for us.

Choosing to feed a mass distribution commercial food instead of a premium brand is not the same as choosing an average diet versus a gourmet diet. It often means exposing your pet to questionable preservatives and minimal nutrition rather than feeding for optimal health. To complicate matters, some of the premium brands with premium price tags are nearly as bad as the bargain foods.

To make sure your pet is eating well, you need to do two things:

1) Read Labels: The full ingredient list on the back or side of pet food packages is the one that counts. The pet food industry is not regulated as closely as the human food industry, and lots of food rejected for human consumption is used in pet food. To be on the safe side, avoid ingredient labels that contain the words "digest," "by-products," "BHA," "BHT," or "ethoxyquin". Look for specific proteins and fats (like lamb, chicken, beef, etc.) rather than generic terms (like animal or poultry). Additionally, keep in mind that ingredients are listed by weight in decreasing order. Look closely at the first ingredient on the list, as there is more of it than any other ingredient. If the first ingredient is not a protein, that's generally a bad sign.

2) Do not trust marketing claims and pretty pictures:

Most of the top-selling pet

food brands are manufactured by huge conglomerates that do not specialize in pet food. Many of their products lack the very things they claim to offer. These companies invest heavily in ad campaigns and public relations, but their attention to nutrition leaves much to be desired. Of course, seeing their beautiful print and television ads or reading their promotional material would convince anyone otherwise. It takes research and real attention to detail to get to the truth. Always remember that the proof is in the FULL ingredient list.

Fortunately, the last few years have ushered in an intense movement towards healthy pet food, so there are lots of truly good brands from which to choose. When you're deciding on a brand, do your homework! My people learned a lot about dog food from the Whole Dog Journal (whole-dog-journal.com). Once you choose a brand, you'll have lots of sources from which to buy it. You can find great food in local small chain or independent pet supply stores, some vet offices and on the internet.

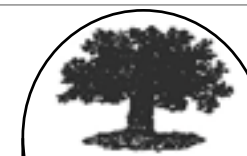
After researching pet food, you may find that the best thing you could do for your companion is to provide fresh, balanced meals from your own kitchen. For most people, however, that's simply not practical and it can be a little intimidating. If home-cooking is not an option, it's up to you as your pet's sole caregiver to provide the best possible alternative.

I could go on and on about this, but I'll stop here. Trust me when I tell you that this is one topic about which you should become very knowledgeable. Many of the major pet food manufacturers count on people to follow blindly along and believe all that they see and hear. A lot of intelligent, caring people have been duped into believing they're buying the best pet food on the market when they're doing anything but. For the sake of your dog or cat, please don't be one of them.

Albert, a Jack Russell Terrier, is Chairman of the Board of Wylie Wagg, a shop for dogs, cats, and their people, in Middleburg.

MIDDLEBURG ANIMAL HOSPITAL WELCOMES NEW DOCTOPR

The Middleburg Animal Hospital is delighted to announce that Dr. Jane Currie Kaye, DVM has joined our staff. Dr. Currie is a native of Northern Virginia, and grew up in Leesburg. She received her BS degree in Biology from the University of Richmond and graduated from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001. Her interests include internal medicine, surgery, and Chinese medicine. She is a certified veterinary acupuncturist. Dr. Currie lives in Ashburn with her husband Brian and their dog Whitney.

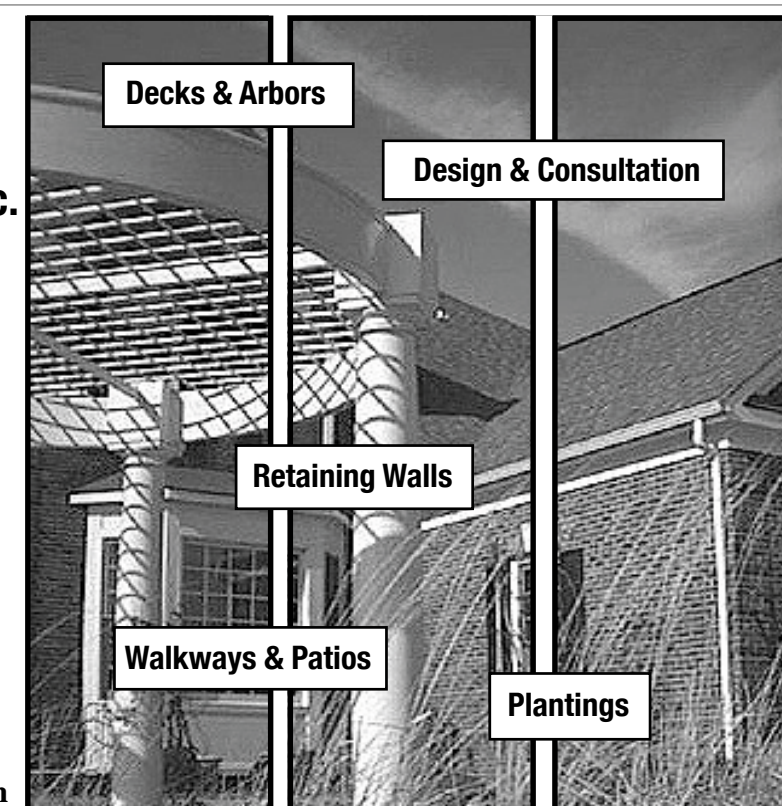


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Piedmont Hunt Territory ♦138+/- acres in open space easement ♦Open rolling land with mountain views ♦Pond ♦Black board fencing ♦Seven paddocks & three wonderful homes ♦Great house site overlooking pond ♦Large barn **\$3,850,000**

LITTLE RIVER



Orange County Hunt Territory ♦Custom Fieldstone home with beautiful views on 50 Acres in The Plains ♦5 BR, 3.5 BA ♦Exposed beam ceilings in great room ♦Open foyer ♦Main floor master suite includes private porch, paneled office, stone fireplace ♦7 stall barn with 2 BR apartment **\$2,700,000**

LEITRIM



Exquisite Georgian Colonial ♦Approx 7000 sf with high ceilings, wood floors and gorgeous millwork ♦4 Fireplaces ♦Gourmet kitchen ♦Banquet sized dining room ♦Sun-filled Great Room ♦Wine Cellar ♦17+/- acres **\$2,390,000**

WEST WIND



Brick 4 bedroom home with attached garage on 20 acres ♦This property has many complimentary extras: pond, pool, gardens, terraces ♦Offering complete privacy ♦With beautiful mountain and pastoral views **\$1,990,000**

ROCK HAVEN



Spectacular country estate ♦6 bedroom 4.5 bath home on 29+ acres ♦New 6 stall barn ♦Fenced paddock and new riding ring ♦Heated pool surrounded by a Bluestone patio ♦Wonderful privacy ♦Sep. studio/office with full bath **\$2,100,000**

LOCUST GROVE



Charming 3 bedroom Circa 1850 home on 10 rolling acres ♦Totally renovated ♦Large kitchen with fireplace ♦Wonderful family room ♦Dining room with fireplace ♦Office and den ♦Beautiful gardens and patios ♦Cute Barn **\$995,000**

5 REED STREET



Jewel box in the village of Middleburg ♦Hard-to-find sophisticated one level living ♦Within walking distance to shops, restaurants, library ♦New kitchen, baths, grt. rm. addition w/wet bar ♦2 Stone F.P. ♦Huge flagstone terrace **\$785,000**

For further information regarding the properties above or for any of your property requirements please contact any of our qualified agents. All inquiries shall be held in the strictest of confidence.

- * Donna Baker
- * Caro Bentley
- * Catherine Bernache
- * Mary Owen Chatfield-Taylor
- * John Coles
- * Rein du Pont



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